Making ICDS universal

4268. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is considering the demands of making the ICDS universal and regularize the services of Anganwadi workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the commitment of the Government to universalize the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), the ICDS Scheme has been expanded twice in the last two years. The first expansion was in the year 2005-06 when 466 additional ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were sanctioned. Under the 2nd phase of expansion, during 2006-07, 166 additional Projects and 106726 AWCs and 25943 Mini-AWCs have been sanctioned. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829 respectively. The exercise for the 3rd phase of expansion is under way.

The ICDS Scheme envisages AWWs and Helpers as "honorary workers" from the local community who come forward to render the service on part time basis in the area of child care and development.

In view of honorary nature of their services, the question of regularization of their services, does not arise.

Insurance cases for girl child

4269. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide an insurance cover for each girl child:

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government have shown interest in this scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer with Insurance Cover includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities *viz.* birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age. The scheme has been included in Annual Plan 2007-08, as a Central Sector Scheme.

Women and Child Welfare Centres in Andhra Pradesh

4270. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the Women and Child Welfare Centres (WCWCs) functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposals to set up more WCWCs in the State;

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the activities being conducted by WCWCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are no Women and Child Welfare Centres (WCWCs) functioning in Andhra Pradesh under Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Infanticide in Punjab

4271. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab has the highest rate of female infanticide and it is adversely impacting the male/female ratio in the State; and